

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /119 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1957

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4432

E.O. 11642: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MORE ON MOZAMBIQUE RAID

REF: PRETORIA 4400

1. SOUTH AFRICA PRESS OF AUGUST 2 REPORTS THAT RHODESIAN COMMANDER OF COMBINED OPERATIONS, LT. GENERAL PETER WALLS, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 1 IN WHICH HE SAID THAT ROBERT MUGABE WAS THE TARGET OF THE MOZAMBIQUE RAID. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THE OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED WHEN INTELLIGENCE

REPORTS INDICATED THREE TANZANIAN TRAINED REGIMENTS OF 2,700 MEN TOTAL WERE STAGING TO COME INTO RHODESIA TO DISRUPT CEASEFIRE EFFORTS. THE FOCUS OF THE ASSAULTS WERE BEASES AT CHIUTA AND GONDOLA WHERE "IT WAS ASSUMED" MUGABE

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WOULD BE PRESENT.

2. WALLS WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE RAID WAS STAGED UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTION FROM THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, "AND WHEN I SAY THAT I MEAN ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT." WALLS WOULD NOT GIVE CASUALTY FIGURES ON THE GUERRILLA SIDE, BUT DID TERM "ABSOLUTE NONSENSE" A REPORT THAT 12 SCHOOL

SCHILDREN HAD BEEN KILLED. HE SAID "WE WENT OUT OF OUR WAY TO AVOID FRELIMO AND THE LOCAL POPULATION...WE BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO ACHIEVE THE EFFECT WE WANTED WITHOUT KILLING PEOPLE." RHODESIAN CASUALTIES, HE SAID, WERE NIL WITH ONE PARATROOPER BREAKING HIS LEG IN A JUMP. THE PRESS ACCOUNT WENT ON TO SPECULATE THAT BETWEEN 500 AND 2,000 GUERRILLAS WERE PROBABLY KILLED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, WALLS SAID THE SECURITY FORCES ARE IN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "IF WE CAN MAKE THE CEASEFIRE WORK FASTER IT WILL GIVE US EVEN MORE CONTROL."

4. MEANWHILE, MORE CRITICISM FROM BLACK HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING OVER THE RAID. ALONG WITH ZANU (SITHOLE) REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL, A UANC SPOKESMAN HAS REPORTEDLY SAID THE RAID "WAS A HORRIBLE THING TO DO. WE HAVE CONDEMNED THESE THINGS BEFORE." ALSO ZAPU REPRESENTATIVE JOSIAH CHINAMONO ISS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED THE RAID "HIGHLY DEPLORABLE" AND SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN UP PURSUING AN NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

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